

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Western District of Washington

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

BENJAMIN LEE BERENS

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

Case Number: 2:21CR00031RSL-001

USM Number: 30920-510

Sara Brin and Corey Endo

Defendant's Attorney

THE DEFENDANT:

- ☒ pleaded guilty to count(s) 1 and 2 of the Indictment
- ☐ pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) _____
which was accepted by the court.
- ☐ was found guilty on count(s) _____
after a plea of not guilty.

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

<u>Title & Section</u>	<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Offense Ended</u>	<u>Count</u>
18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(a) and (e)	Production of Child Pornography	10/05/2020	1
18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(4)(B) and (b)(2)	Possession of Depictions of Minors Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct	10/05/2020	2


The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 8 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

- ☐ The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s) _____
- ☐ Count(s) _____ ☐ is ☐ are dismissed on the motion of the United States.

It is ordered that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States Attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

Special  Assistant United States Attorney

9/5/24
Date of Imposition of Judgment


Signature of Judge

Robert S. Lasnik, United States District Judge

Name and Title of Judge

9/5/24
Date

DEFENDANT: **BENJAMIN LEE BERENS**
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IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of:

300 months

☒ The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:

An institution in California or as near or close to California

☒ The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

☐ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:

☐ at _____ ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m. on _____ .

☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.

☐ The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:

☐ before 2 p.m. on _____ .

☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.

☐ as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to _____
at _____, with a certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

By _____
DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

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SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, you will be on supervised release for a term of :

lifetime

MANDATORY CONDITIONS

1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.
 - ☐ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
4. ☒ You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution. *(check if applicable)*
5. ☒ You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. *(check if applicable)*
6. ☒ You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, *et seq.*) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense. *(check if applicable)*
7. ☐ You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. *(check if applicable)*

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any additional conditions on the attached pages.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

1. You must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of your release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
2. After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
3. You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
4. You must answer truthfully the questions asked by your probation officer.
5. You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
6. You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
7. You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
8. You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
9. If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
10. You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
11. You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
12. If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
13. You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

U.S. Probation Office Use Only

A U.S. probation officer has instructed me on the conditions specified by the court and has provided me with a written copy of this judgment containing these conditions. For further information regarding these conditions, see *Overview of Probation and Supervised Release Conditions*, available at www.uscourts.gov.

Defendant's Signature _____

Date _____

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SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

1. The defendant shall notify the probation officer of all computer software owned or operated by the defendant at the commencement of supervision, and report any additional software purchase, acquisition, or use during the course of supervision.
2. The defendant's employment must be approved in advance by the probation officer. The defendant may not engage in any paid occupation or volunteer service that exposes him/her, either directly or indirectly, to minors, unless approved in advance by the probation officer.
3. The defendant shall have no contact with any children under the age of 18, unless accompanied and supervised by an adult, who has been approved in advance by the sexual deviancy therapist and the supervising probation officer. The defendant shall immediately report any unauthorized contact with children to the probation officer and sexual deviancy therapist.
4. The defendant shall have no direct or indirect contact with the victims by any means, including in person, by mail, electronic means, or via third parties, without the approval of the probation officer. If any contact occurs, the defendant shall immediately leave the area of contact and report the contact to the probation officer, within one business day.
5. The defendant shall not possess or peruse any authentic, altered, or manufactured, in whatever form, material that depicts and/or describes "sexually explicit conduct," as defined in 18 U.S.C. §2256(2) or "child pornography," as defined in 18 U.S.C. §2256(8).
6. Restitution in the amount of \$ TBD is due immediately. Any unpaid amount is to be paid during the period of supervision in monthly installments of not less than 10% of his or her gross monthly household income.
7. The defendant shall allow a probation officer to inspect any personal computer (as defined in 18 U.S.C. §1030(e)(1) and cellular telephones), owned or operated by the defendant, which is capable of accessing, producing, disseminating, or storing any "visual depiction" (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(5)), of "sexually explicit conduct" (as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)) involving children, or "actual sexually explicit conduct" (as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2257(h)(1)) involving adults.
8. The defendant shall consent to the U.S. Probation Office conducting ongoing monitoring of his/her computer(s) (as defined in 18 U.S.C. §1030(e)(1) and cellular telephones), hardware, and software, and any/all electronic devices/media which are capable of accessing, producing, disseminating, or storing any "visual depiction" (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(5)), of "sexually explicit conduct" (as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)) involving children, or "actual sexually explicit conduct" (as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2257(h)(1)) involving adults. The monitoring may include the installation, at the defendant's expense, of hardware or software systems which allow evaluation of his/her computer use. Monitoring may also include the retrieval and copying of all data from his/her computer(s) or any/all other electronic devices/media. The defendant shall also comply with the requirements of the U.S. Probation Computer Monitoring Program as directed.
9. The defendant shall follow all rules, to include other lifestyle restrictions by the defendant's therapist, and continue with those rules and restrictions as they pertain to avoiding risk situations throughout the course of the defendant's supervision.
10. The defendant shall not go to places nor loiter within 100 feet of an area where minors are known to congregate, such as school yards, parks, public swimming pools, or recreational centers, playgrounds, youth centers, or other similar places, without the prior approval of the probation officer and the sexual deviancy therapist. The defendant shall not

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affiliate with, own, control, volunteer, and/or be employed, in any capacity, by an organization in an activity, which would place him/her in contact with children under the age of 18.

11. The defendant shall be required to submit to periodic polygraph testing at the discretion of the probation office as a means to ensure that he or she is in compliance with the requirements of his or her ~~supervision~~ or treatment program. Polygraph testing may not exceed six tests per year.
12. The defendant's residence shall be pre-approved by the probation office. The defendant shall not reside in direct view of places used primarily by minors, such as school yards, parks, public swimming pools, or recreational centers, playgrounds, youth centers, video arcade facilities, or other places primarily used by children under the age of 18.
13. The defendant, who is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, must comply with all requirements of that Act. The defendant shall report the address where the defendant will reside and any subsequent change of residence to the probation officer responsible for supervision, and shall register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction where the person resides, is employed, or is a student. For initial registration purposes only, the defendant shall also register in the jurisdiction in which convicted if such jurisdiction is different from the jurisdiction of the residence. Registration must occur within three business days after sentencing if the defendant is sentenced to probation or time served, or a term of imprisonment and is not remanded. If the defendant is remanded, registration must occur within three business days of release.
14. The defendant shall participate in a sexual deviancy evaluation conducted by a sexual deviancy treatment provider, as directed and approved by the U.S. Probation Officer. The treatment provider shall be trained and experienced in the treatment of sexual deviancy, and follow the guideline practices established by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). The sexual deviancy evaluation may include psychological and physiological testing, not to include plethysmograph. The defendant shall disclose all previous sex offender or mental health evaluations to the treatment provider. The defendant shall also contribute to the costs of the evaluation, according to his/her ability, as determined by the U.S. Probation Officer.
15. The defendant shall actively participate and make reasonable progress in a certified sexual deviancy treatment program, as designated by the U.S. Probation Officer. The sexual deviancy treatment program shall follow the guideline practices established by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). The program shall offer individual and group sessions, and appropriate testing, to determine the defendant's patterns of sexual arousal, and to monitor the defendant's progress and compliance with treatment goals and conditions of supervision. The defendant shall disclose all previous sex offender or mental health evaluations to the treatment provider. The defendant shall also contribute to the costs of treatment, according to his/her ability, as determined by the U.S. Probation Officer.
16. The defendant shall submit his or her person, property, house, residence, storage unit, vehicle, papers, computers (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1) and cellular telephones), other electronic communications or data storage devices or media which are capable of accessing, producing, disseminating, or storing any "visual depiction" (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(5)), of "sexually explicit conduct" (as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)) involving children, or "actual sexually explicit conduct" (as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2257(h)(1)) involving adults, or office, to a search conducted by a United States probation officer, at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner, based upon reasonable suspicion of contraband or evidence of a violation of a condition of supervision. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation. The defendant shall warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition.

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CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the schedule of payments on Sheet 6.

	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Restitution</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>AVAA Assessment*</u>	<u>JVTA Assessment**</u>
TOTALS	\$ 200	\$ TBD	\$ Waived	\$ Waived	\$ Waived

- ☒ The determination of restitution is deferred until 11/14/24. An Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case (AO 245C) will be entered after such determination. ~~The defendant is ordered to pay restitution after the restitution hearing.~~
- ☐ The defendant must make restitution (including community restitution) to the following payees in the amount listed below.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment, unless specified otherwise in the priority order or percentage payment column below. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Total Loss***</u>	<u>Restitution Ordered</u>	<u>Priority or Percentage</u>
MV1 c/o mother (AW1)			
Restore the Child, PLLC			
In Trust for Angela			
Kendra M. Oyen, LLC COLTAF			
For Jan_Socks 1			
Marsh Law Firm, PLLC			
ATTN: Jane of the			
"CinderBlockBlue" Series			
Hepburn, P.S.			
Carol L. I/T/F Sarah of the			
"Marineland1" Series			
Hepburn P.S.			
Cara of the "Motorcouch1"			
Series			
TOTALS	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	

- ☐ Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$ _____
- ☐ The defendant must pay interest on restitution and a fine of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on Sheet 6 may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).
- ☒ The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:
- ☐ the interest requirement is waived for the ☐ fine ☒ restitution
- ☐ the interest requirement for the ☐ fine ☐ restitution is modified as follows:
- ☒ The court finds the defendant is financially unable and is unlikely to become able to pay a fine and, accordingly, the imposition of a fine is waived.
- * Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-299.
- ** Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22.
- *** Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

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SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties is due as follows:

- ☒ **PAYMENT IS DUE IMMEDIATELY.** Any unpaid amount shall be paid to Clerk's Office, United States District Court, 700 Stewart Street, Seattle, WA 98101.
- ☒ During the period of imprisonment, no less than 25% of their inmate gross monthly income or \$25.00 per quarter, whichever is greater, to be collected and disbursed in accordance with the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.
- ☒ During the period of supervised release, in monthly installments amounting to not less than 10% of the defendant's gross monthly household income, to commence 30 days after release from imprisonment.
- ☐ During the period of probation, in monthly installments amounting to not less than 10% of the defendant's gross monthly household income, to commence 30 days after the date of this judgment.

The payment schedule above is the minimum amount that the defendant is expected to pay towards the monetary penalties imposed by the Court. The defendant shall pay more than the amount established whenever possible. The defendant must notify the Court, the United States Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office of any material change in the defendant's financial circumstances that might affect the ability to pay restitution.

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during the period of imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program are made to the United States District Court, Western District of Washington. For restitution payments, the Clerk of the Court is to forward money received to the party(ies) designated to receive restitution specified on the Criminal Monetaries (Sheet 5) page.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

- ☐ Joint and Several

Case Number

Defendant and Co-Defendant Names
(including defendant number)

Total Amount

Joint and Several
Amount

Corresponding Payee,
if appropriate

- ☐ The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
- ☐ The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):
- ☐ The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) AVAA assessment, (5) fine principal, (6) fine interest, (7) community restitution, (8) JVT Assessment, (9) penalties, and (10) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.